

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **HINCHEY CALLS FOR REAL PENSION PROTECTIONS**

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today called on the Republican majority in the House of Representatives to embrace pension reform measures that would include real protection for the investments of workers and retirees. The Republican House leadership is calling for a vote this week on a resolution urging Congress to pass a pension reform bill that the House passed earlier this year, but that the Senate has not taken up.

"Instead of scolding the Senate for not acting on the 'Pension Security Act' passed by the House, we should be praising them for derailing this special interest legislation," said Hinchey. "If we learned anything from the recent corporate crime wave, it should be that corporate insiders typically put their interests ahead of workers and investors unless there are strong safeguards to keep their greed in check."

In April, the House passed the Pension Security Act. Hinchey voted against the bill, saying that it would do nothing to prevent situations like Enron, which caused employees to lose over \$1 billion in retirement funds while corporate executives made millions from the sale of Enron stock and from bonuses. He voted instead for an alternative that focused on helping middle- and working-class Americans. The bill Hinchey supported, would have provided real pension reform by including strong criminal penalties for executives who engage in mismanagement and abuse; requiring notification of employees when executives are dumping company stock; ensuring that employees receive honest and timely information about their pensions from unbiased, independent financial advisors; enabling employees to diversify their investments as soon as they are vested in their plans; and giving employees a voice on pension boards.

"The House Republican leadership is looking to pass legislation that weakens the few safeguards that are already in place to protect workers' investments," Hinchey added. "They are doing this at the urging of the Bush Administration and their deep-pocketed contributors -- many of the same corporations that have been making headlines by cooking their books, restating earnings, declaring bankruptcy, laying off workers, and moving offshore to avoid paying taxes."